

In the Claims

1           1.     [Original] A method for managing printer component inventories,  
2 comprising:  
3           defining one or more printer component rules for one or more printers in a  
4 first organization and for one or more printers in a second organization, each printer  
5 component rule defining a printer component event that, when it occurs, indicates  
6 that the printer component requires replacement;  
7           monitoring printer components in the printers in the first organization and the  
8 second organization to detect an occurrence of a printer component event defined  
9 by a printer component rule; and  
10          replacing a printer component when a printer component event is detected in  
11 a printer.

1           2.     [Original] The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the replacing the  
2 printer component further comprises ordering a replacement component to be  
3 shipped to a location of the printer in which the printer component event was  
4 detected.

1           3.     [Original] The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the replacing the  
2 printer component further comprises shipping a replacement component to a location  
3 of the printer in which the printer component event was detected.

1           4.     [Original] The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the printer  
2 component further comprises a printer component selected from the following list of  
3 printer components: toner cartridge; ink cartridge; ribbon cartridge; dry medium  
4 cartridge; ink bladder; photoconductor; drum; belt; developer assembly; cleaning  
5 roller; oiling roller; transfer assemblies; print head.

1           5.     [Original] The method as recited in claim 1, wherein:  
2 the printer component is a toner cartridge for a laser printer; and  
3 the printer component event is a low toner condition in the toner cartridge.

1           6.     [Original] The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising  
2 presenting an interface to the first organization and to the second organization, the  
3 interface allowing the first organization and the second organization to define the  
4 printer component rules for each respective organization.

1           7.     [Original] The method as recited in claim 1, wherein detecting the  
2 printer component event further comprises receiving notification from an  
3 organization that the printer component event has occurred in one of the printers in  
4 the organization.

1           8.     [Original] The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the monitoring  
2 further comprises periodically polling the printer components of the printers in the  
3 first and second organizations.

1           9.     [Original] A system for managing printer components in one or more  
2 organizations, comprising:  
3           a processor;  
4           memory;  
5           connection means for establishing at least one electronic connection with a  
6 first organization and at least one electronic connection with a second organization;  
7 each organization having at least one printer that includes one or more printer  
8 components;  
9           a rules-based printer component management system configured to monitor  
10 the printers in the first and second organizations for the occurrence of a printer  
11 component event in a printer component, the occurrence of the printer component  
12 event indicating that the printer component requires replacement; and  
13           replacing the printer component in which the printer component event  
14 occurred.

1           10.    [Original] The system as recited in claim 9, further comprising an  
2 order module configured to order a replacement component, and wherein the  
3 replacing the printer component further comprises ordering a replacement  
4 component to replace the printer component.

1           11.   [Original] The system as recited in claim 9, further comprising:  
2           a rules table that stores printer events for one or more printers in one or more  
3 organizations; and  
4           an interface module configured to present an interface to the one or more  
5 organizations; allowing each organization to enter rules in the rules table for the one  
6 or more printers of the organization.

1           12.   [Original] The system as recited in claim 9, wherein the connection  
2 means further comprises a network interface card that provides a connection with a  
3 network.

1           13.   [Original] The system as recited in claim 9, wherein the connection  
2 means is a modem that provides a telephone line connection with a computing  
3 device.

1           14.   [Original] The system as recited in claim 9, wherein the rules-based  
2 printer component management system monitors the printers by periodically polling  
3 a status of the printer components in the printers for the occurrence of a printer  
4 component event.

1           15.   [Original] The system as recited in claim 9, wherein the rules-based  
2 printer component management system monitors the printers by receiving a  
3 notification from the printer that a printer component event has occurred.

1           16.   [Original] The system as recited in claim 9, wherein the rules-based  
2 printer component management system monitors the printers by receiving a  
3 notification from the first or second organization that a printer component event has  
4 occurred in an organization printer.

1           17. [Currently Amended] ~~One or more computer-readable~~ Computer-  
2 readable media containing computer-executable instructions that, when executed on  
3 a computer, perform the following steps:

4           monitoring printer component conditions in one or more printers of more than  
5 one organization;

6           referring to printer component rules defined for the one or more printers to  
7 determine if a printer component event has occurred that indicates that a  
8 replacement component is required for the printer component in which the printer  
9 component event has occurred, the printer component ~~even~~ event occurring when  
10 printer component conditions satisfy at least one of the printer component rules; and

11          replacing the printer component that requires replacement with a replacement  
12 component.

1           18. [Currently Amended] The ~~one or more~~ computer-readable media as  
2 recited in claim 17, wherein replacing the printer component further comprises  
3 ordering the replacement component to be shipped to a location of the printer in  
4 which the replacement component is required.

1           19. [Currently Amended] The ~~one or more~~ computer-readable media as  
2 recited in claim 17, wherein replacing the printer component further comprises  
3 shipping the replacement component to a location of the printer in which the  
4 replacement component is required.

1           20. [Currently Amended] The ~~one or more~~ computer-readable media as  
2 recited in claim 17, further comprising additional computer-executable instructions  
3 that, when executed on a computer, perform the following step:

4           presenting an interface to the organizations allowing each organization to  
5 define printer component rules for the printers of the organization.

1           21. [Currently Amended] The ~~one or more~~ computer-readable media as  
2 recited in claim 17, wherein the monitoring printer component conditions further  
3 comprises periodically polling the printers to determine the printer component  
4 conditions.

1           22.   [Currently Amended] The ~~one or more~~ computer-readable media as  
2 recited in claim 17, wherein the monitoring printer component conditions further  
3 comprises receiving notification from an organization when a printer component  
4 event has occurred in a printer in the organization.

1           23.   [New] The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the monitoring  
2 comprises monitoring using processing circuitry.

1           24.   [New] The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the monitoring  
2 comprises monitoring using an entity remotely spatially located from at least one of  
3 the printers of at least one of the organizations.

1           25.   [New] The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the monitoring  
2 comprises monitoring the printer components in a plurality of the printers of the first  
3 and second organizations using a single entity.

1           26.   [New] The system as recited in claim 9, wherein the rules-based  
2 printer component management system comprises a single entity configured to  
3 monitor the plurality of printers via the connection means.

1           27.   [New] The system as recited in claim 9, wherein the rules-based  
2 printer component management system comprises a single entity remotely spatially  
3 located from at least one of the printers of at least one of the organizations.

1           28.   [New] The system as recited in claim 9, wherein the rules-based  
2 printer component management system is configured to store thresholds for a  
3 plurality of printers of the first and second organizations and to communicate with  
4 the printers.

1           29.   [New] The system as recited in claim 10, wherein the ordering  
2 comprises ordering responsive to the occurrence of the printer component event of  
3 one of the printers.

1           30.   [New] The computer-readable media as recited in claim 17, wherein  
2 the monitoring comprises, using the computer, monitoring the printer component  
3 conditions in a plurality of printers of a plurality of organizations.

1           31.   [New] The computer-readable media as recited in claim 30, wherein  
2 the computer is remotely spatially located from at least one of the printers of at  
3 least one of the organizations.